

CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

FLP
382

COUNTRY Bolivia

DATE DISTR. 2 December 1948.

SUBJECT Army Reaction to Prospective Appointment for
Major Belmonte

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1. It is believed that the Bolivian Army would not make any formal protest to the return of Major Elias Belmonte to Bolivia. The possibility exists, however, that the revolutionary legions and the populace of La Paz might become so incensed should Belmonte announce his intention to return that the Army might feel compelled to oppose it in order to maintain public order.
2. The most compelling reason for the Army's opposition to Belmonte's appointment as Military Attache to Spain was the fact that he would have been restored to his rank in the Bolivian Army over the heads of other officers who had been persecuted by the Villarreal Government. When Hertzog withdrew his appointment of Belmonte as Military Attache, the Army expressed no opposition to his intention to appoint Belmonte as Bolivian Consul in Bilbao, Spain. This appointment has not yet been made.
3. Jorge Gosalvez, Director-General of Police, is known to have favored sending money from the President's unvouchered funds to Belmonte, rather than giving him a consular post. It will be recalled that the original decision to appoint Belmonte as Military Attache was motivated by a desire to improve his financial situation, which was described as desperate. Gosalvez' suggestion would resolve the problem of providing financially for Belmonte.

Document No. 2

NO CHANGE in Class. ☒

☒ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S

DDA Memo. 4 Apr 77

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This document is hereby regraded to
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